

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 7 and 13 as follows and add new claims 14-16 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A data reproducing method for reproducing data corresponding to a state-transition pass selected as being most likely according to a Viterbi decoding algorithm from a reproduction signal supplied from a recording medium, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting at least one state of said reproduction signal according to data used for selecting said state-transition pass;

calculating an average value of said reproduction signal in each of said at least one state detected by said step of detecting;

determining at least one expected value according to said average value so as to allow the expected value to follow a fluctuation amount of a direct current component of said reproduction signal; and

supplying said expected value to a Viterbi detector such that the expected value is used in said Viterbi decoding algorithm; ~~and~~

~~following a fluctuation amount of a direct current component of said reproduction signal according to said average value.~~

2. (Previously Presented) The data reproducing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of detecting includes the steps of:

outputting data supplied to a pass memory of the Viterbi detector as said data used for selecting said state-transition pass; and

producing a state signal indicating said state according to said data used for selecting said state-transition pass.

3. (Original) The data reproducing method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said step of calculating includes the steps of:

judging said state according to said state signal; and

calculating the average value of said reproduction signal in said state judged by said step of judging.

4. (Previously Presented) The data reproducing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of following includes the steps of:

determining at least one expected value according to said average value, the expected value being used in said Viterbi decoding algorithm; and

supplying said expected value to the Viterbi detector.

5. (Original) The data reproducing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of following includes the step of:

adjusting the fluctuation amount of the direct current component according to said average value.

6. (Original) The data reproducing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said state is one of a peak portion, a center portion and a bottom portion of said reproduction signal.

7. (Currently Amended) A data reproducing device for reproducing data corresponding to a state-transition pass selected as being most likely according to a Viterbi decoding algorithm from a reproduction signal supplied from a recording medium, the device comprising:

a condition detector detecting at least one state of said reproduction signal according to data used for selecting said state-transition pass;

an average circuit calculating an average value of said reproduction signal in each of said at least one state detected by said condition detector; and

a follower, ~~following a fluctuation amount of a direct current component of said reproduction signal according to said average value, and~~

wherein said follower determines at least one expected value according to said average value so as to allow the expected value to follow the fluctuation amount of the direct current component of said reproduction signal, the expected value being used in said Viterbi decoding algorithm, so as to supply said expected value to a Viterbi detector.

8. (Original) The data reproducing device as claimed in claim 7, wherein said condition detector is supplied with data supplied to a pass memory of the Viterbi detector as said data used for selecting said state-transition pass so as to produce a state signal indicating said state according to said data used for selecting said state-transition pass.

9. (Original) The data reproducing device as claimed in claim 8, wherein said average circuit judges said state according to said state signal so as to calculate the average value of said reproduction signal in said state.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) The data reproducing device as claimed in claim 7, wherein said follower adjusts the fluctuation amount of the direct current component according to said average value.

12. (Original) The data reproducing device as claimed in claim 7, wherein said state is one of a peak portion, a center portion and a bottom portion of said reproduction signal.

13. (Currently Amended) A magneto-optical disk device for reproducing data according to a state-transition pass selected as being most likely according to a Viterbi decoding algorithm from a reproduction signal supplied from a recording medium having data recorded according to a partial-response waveform, the device comprising:

a condition detector detecting at least one state of said reproduction signal according to data used for selecting said state-transition pass, the data being supplied from a Viterbi detector;

an average circuit calculating an average value of said reproduction signal in each of said at least one state detected by said condition detector; and

a follower, ~~following a fluctuation amount of a direct current component of said reproduction signal according to said average value, and~~

wherein said follower determines at least one expected value according to said average value so as to allow the expected value to follow a fluctuation amount of a direct current component of said reproduction signal, the expected value being used in said Viterbi decoding algorithm, so as to supply said expected value to a Viterbi detector.

14. (New) The data reproducing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one state includes a peak value, a center value, and a bottom value of the reproduction signal.

15. (New) The data reproducing device as claimed in claim 7, wherein said at least one state includes a peak value, a center value, and a bottom value of the reproduction signal.

16. (New) The magneto-optical disk device as claimed in claim 13, wherein said at least one state includes a peak value, a center value, and a bottom value of the reproduction signal.